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46th ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO - SEPTEMBER 2024

REVISED Terms of Reference–NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS)

Structure:

The Working Group shall be comprised of fishery managers, scientists, and advisors from Contracting Parties supported by observers and invited experts.

Plenary discussions will be conducted in an informal, open manner, unless the Contracting Parties decide to conduct sessions in a delegation format. Recommendations to Commission will be developed and agreed upon through formal sessions of official delegations.

The Co-Chairs will consist of a fishery manager from the Commission and a scientist from the Scientific Council.

Accredited observers may attend meetings of the working group. Participation will be subject to the NAFO Rules of Procedure.

If a Contracting Party so requests, particular agenda items of the meeting, or parts thereof, shall be restricted to delegates representing Contracting Parties and Scientific Council.

The Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies reports to both the Commission and Scientific Council; considers the advice of Scientific Council; and provides recommendations to Commission.

Objective:

The main objectives of the Working Group are to make recommendations to the Commission and feedback to Scientific Council on the development and effective implementation of management strategies, based on the principles of the precautionary approach to fisheries management, including conservation plans and rebuilding strategies, and to facilitate dialogue between Scientific Council and the Commission.

Specific Duties:

In responding to requests for advice and recommendations from the Commission, considering the associated advice of Scientific Council, the Working Group shall:

- Review, update and further develop a general framework including management objectives and performance statistics for the elaboration of management strategies, conservation plans and rebuilding strategies for all NAFO managed stocks.
- Evaluate, and as appropriate update and develop new ones where none exist, all management strategies, conservation plans and rebuilding strategies implemented in NAFO with respect to the Precautionary Approach framework, management objectives and performance statistics.
- Develop alternative strategies for stocks that may not be suited to formulaic rules and/or for stocks where reference points do not exist or cannot be developed.
- Consider all matters related to use of the NAFO Precautionary Approach framework.

- Consider risk management approaches in the review, update and future development of Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies.

Meetings:

The Working Group will typically meet annually unless otherwise agreed by the Scientific Council and the Commission. Timing should be decided on a case-by-case basis.

The working group shall communicate regularly through teleconferences and electronically, as required.

Reporting:

The Working Group will issue written reports of its sessions and present its recommendations to the Commission and Scientific Council at the NAFO annual meeting.